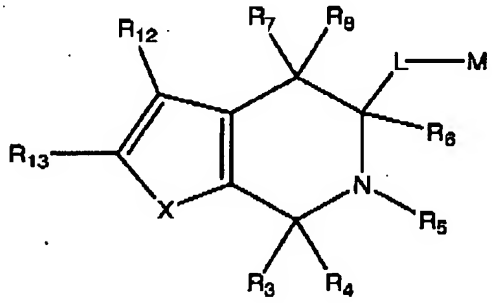
AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0092] with the following amended paragraph:

[0092] In one variation where R_1 and R_2 are taken together to form a five membered heteroaryl ring, HDAC inhibitors are provided that comprise the formula



wherein

R_3 and R_4 are each independently selected from a group of substituents comprising a moiety attached to the ring carbon selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aminoalkyl, oxaalkyl, aromatic ring, cyano, a carbonyl group, and a thiocarbonyl group or where R_3 and R_4 are taken together to form a ring;

R_5 is selected from a group of substituents that comprise a moiety attached to the ring nitrogen selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aminoalkyl, oxaalkyl, aromatic ring, cyano, a carbonyl group, a thiocarbonyl group and a sulfonyl group;

R_6 is selected from a group of substituents that comprise a moiety attached to the ring carbon selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aminoalkyl, oxaalkyl, aromatic ring, cyano, a carbonyl group, a thiocarbonyl group and a sulfonyl group;

R_7 and R_8 are each independently selected from a group of substituents comprising a moiety attached to the ring carbon selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aminoalkyl, oxaalkyl, aromatic ring, alkoxy, aryloxy, alkylamino, arylamino, alkylthio, arylthio, acylamino, sulfonylamino, nitro, cyano, halogen, hydroxyl, thiol, amino, a carbonyl group, and a thiocarbonyl

group, or R_7 and R_8 are taken together to form a substituent comprising a moiety attached to the ring carbon selected from the group consisting of a carbonyl, thiocarbonyl, imine, alkene and ring;

R_{12} and R_{13} are each independently selected from a group of substituents comprising a moiety attached to the ring carbon selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aminoalkyl, oxaalkyl, aromatic ring, alkoxy, aryloxy, alkylamino, arylamino, alkylthio, arylthio, acylamino, sulfonylamino, nitro, cyano, halogen, hydroxyl, thiol, amino, a carbonyl group, and a thiocarbonyl group, or ~~R_7~~ R_{12} and ~~R_8~~ R_{13} are taken together to form a substitituted or unsubstituted 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 membered ring;

X is selected from the group consisting of O, S, and NR_{14}, where R_{14} comprises a moiety attached to the nitrogen selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, aromatic ring, alkoxy, aryloxy, a carbonyl group, a thiocarbonyl group, and a sulfonyl group;

M is a substituent capable of complexing with a protein metal ion; and

L is a substituent comprising a chain of 3-12 atoms connecting the M substituent to the carbon atom alpha to the L substituent.